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Oct. 4-1901



REPORTS
OF THE AUDITORS
 AND
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 OF THE
TOWN OF GILMANTON,
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 27, 1858.

We have examined the accounts, orders and vouchers presented to us by the Selectmen and Town Treasurer, and find the following to be the result.

We find the Treasurer has paid the following sums by order of the Selectmen :

PAID OUTSTANDING ORDERS.

A. S. Eastman for poor in town,	\$5 33
“ for stationery,	2 74
“ for poor on town farm,	37 01
Nahum Wight for medical aid,	18 84
Charles E. Plumer for work on road,	10 86
Lewis A. Prescott for making new road,	194 52
John K. Woodman for interest on orders,	20 00
Alvah Foss for corn for B. Kimball,	1 00
J. Q. Adams for bridge plank,	7 83
R. H. Jones for constable's fees,	2 00
S. F. Hurd, administratrix, for medical aid,	16 04
Ira D. Gilman for constable's fees,	2 00
“ for collector's fees,	15 69
“ for abatement of taxes,	2 45
“ “	1 83
Zaccheus Peaslee for services and expense as Selectman,	24 51
A. Foss “ “	19 10
“ for services as Selectman,	73 88

D. W. Weeks for George Ladd,	5 31
J. M. Roberts for land for Durrell road,	33 71
John Roberts “	21 06
John Wells for balance of order School District No. 13,	350 00
B. Johnson for plank and timber,	7 27
S. C. Edwards for services as surveyor,	6 25
Perley Farrar for timber,	9 75
Calvin Shepard for bridge plank,	3 71
Henry E. Marsh for labor on J. B. Sanborn road,	48 75
Samuel M. Page for land for road,	310 35
B. B. Lamprey for service and expense as Selectman,	9 77
Thomas Durrell on order for building road,	510 46
Several school districts balance due in 1856,	200 08
John P. Clough for services as auditor 1855,	3 00
John S. Hill for services and liquor,	32 73
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	\$2,007 83

PAID FOR OLD ROADS AND BRIDGES.

David Lougee for railing bridge,	\$2 12
A. Foss for repairing bridge,	1 00
Charles Varney for plank for bridges,	12 46
A. C. Lougee for repairing highway,	15 00
Isaac C. Marsh for breaking road 1856,	3 00
J. B. Durrell “	4 00
A. W. Smith for timber and spikes,	4 00
S. Grant for repairing road,	3 25
O. J. Edgerly for bridge plank,	5 49
J. Badger for bridge plank,	12 25
James C. Cilley for bridge plank,	2 34
Stephen S. Folsom for bridge plank,	2 80
George Elkins for repairing bridge,	1 33
Samuel C. Bunker for services as highway surveyor,	4 00
N. Rundlett for bridge plank,	1 75
T. C. Moulton for breaking road 1856,	1 80
H. J. Pierce for breaking road 1856,	13 00
E. S. Veasey for bridge plank,	7 12
A. Foss for building Iron Works Bridge,	88 06
David Lougee for repairing highway,	10 00
Daniel Elkins for bridge plank,	1 06
James S. Weymouth for bridge plank,	4 63
Ira Mooney for services as highway surveyor,	5 00
A. L. Bean for bridge plank,	2 25

Emerson Lougee for repairing road,	3 00
Asa T. Page for bridge plank,	10 08
S. S. Smith for bridge plank,	6 42
A. W. Smith for railing bridge,	9 80

\$237 01

PAID FOR NEW ROADS.

J. M. Roberts for land for Durrell road,	21 31
A. Foss for building new road,	69 00

\$90 31

PAID FOR POOR IN TOWN CHARGEABLE TO OTHER TOWNS.

B. B. Lamprey for Dorcas A. Paul,	\$99 25
D. S. Prescott for medical aid for D. A. Paul,	10 60

\$109 85

PAID FOR POOR CHARGEABLE TO THE COUNTY.

R. P. J. Tenney for medical aid for B. Kimball,	\$16 00
A. Foss for Betsey Kimball,	3 75
Samuel Grant for John Weeks,	3 75
Alvah Foss for Jacob Willard,	12 50
John S. Tufts for John Weeks,	44 49
James M. Gilman for B. Kimball,	45 00

\$125 49

PAID FOR POOR OFF OF TOWN FARM.

Mary Gilman for Mr. Tasker,	\$3 00
A. Foss for Dudley Young,	8 64
“ for Ann Lougee,	8 23
“ “	5 00
J. L. Keazor for Joseph Ladd,	15 00
A. Foss for box for D. Young,	1 25
B. B. Lamprey for Mrs. Ellis,	5 10
J. Farrar for Betsey Conner,	11 97
T. C. Moulton for Mary Ann Moulton,	10 00
Jeduthun Farrar for Betsey Conner,	15 52
N. D. Garman for aid to Josiah Judkins,	21 21
G. W. Ross for coffin for D. Lougee,	4 00
J. S. Tufts for supplies for J. Clifford,	5 65
Jeremiah Ellsworth for Mary Gilman,	2 75

S. Dearborn for poor of town farm,	5 96
G. W. Ross for Dudley Lougee,	8 80

\$132 08

PAID FOR POOR IN OTHER TOWNS CHARGEABLE
TO THIS.

A. Foss for J. P. Osgood's widow,	\$12 26
B. B. Lamprey for Josiah Moulton,	15 36
“ for M. D. Smith,	19 80
“ for Charles A. Hunt,	21 05
“ “	18 94
“ for J. Smith,	6 50
“ for J. L. Edgerly,	21 00
A. Foss for M. D. Smith,	30 00
“ for Hiram Bunker,	2 50
B. B. Lamprey for Hackett Emery family,	5 77
R. L. French for Mrs. Perley Osgood,	12 00
B. B. Lamprey for aid for J. F. Lougee,	3 75

\$168 93

PAID FOR POOR ON TOWN FARM.

S. Shannon for stove for town farm,	\$18 00
Zaccheus Peaslee for pasturing sheep,	9 75
S. Shannon for services in part 1856,	40 00
“ “	50 00
“ for money for use of town farm,	20 00
D. C. Batchelder for horse,	20 00
S. Shannon for services in part for 1857,	33 00
Isaac S. Morgan for coffin,	3 50

\$194 25

PAID FOR PHYSICIAN'S BILLS.

G. Montgomery for medical aid,	\$6 92
Otis French “	103 80
N. Wight “	75 00
“ “	200 00
James Donnel “	50 00
Nahum Wight “	12 99
George E. Spencer “	58 00
James S. Donnell “	50 00

\$556 71

PAID CURRENT EXPENSES.

R Griffin for repairing school house, District No. 24,	260 00
C. P. Payne for building a house in District No. 25,	25 00
S. W. Sanders for stove for District No. 20,	13 60
J. S. Towle for guide post,	4 00
E. Mallard for guide boards,	5 00
E. Canny for guide post,	50
John W. Page for enrolling militia,	2 00
N. H. Dockham " "	2 50
James C. Shannon " "	2 50
J. S. Page " "	2 00
Gorham Swain for abatement of tax, 1850,	1 90
A. Foss for sundry abatements of tax for 1856,	5 94
A. Foss for " " " " " "	39 58
John Sanborn " " " " " "	5 00
B. B. Lamprey for sundry abatements of taxes, 1852,	18 15
J. S. Towle for damage to carriage,	4 00
W. Butterfield for printing town reports,	34 25
John Wentworth for witness fees in M. A. Moulton case,	6 25
L. B. Hutchinson for " " " " " "	3 75
O. A. J. Vaughan for " " " " " "	55 37
F. S. Gilman for expense of selectmen,	3 50
S. M. Page for interest on town order,	18 00
J. B. Sanborn " " " " "	14 06
F. Ayers " " " " "	6 60
A. Mack " " " " "	8 31
S. B. Plumer " " " " "	17 70
G. P. Lyon for inventory books, &c.,	4 62
D. C. Batchelder for cleaning guns, &c.,	12 34
A. Prescott for deposition in pauper cases and money paid out for postage, &c.,	15 07
D. C. Tebbetts for lumber and fixing town hall,	2 76
Paid interest on parsonage fund and town orders,	77 90
Insurance Company for assessment 1857,	6 63
B. B. Lamprey for money paid H. J. Osgood,	1 00
H. Quimby for 3 per cent school money,	52 00
County tax 1857,	1106 56
State tax " "	580 30
David Hatch for damage to horse and wagon,	10 00
John S. Tufts for stationery,	1 28
Isaac S. Sanborn for notifying jurors,	1 50
N. D. Garman for " "	3 00
A. Prescott for record book and printing notice,	11 25

John Sanborn for abatement of taxes,	4 00
Edmund Keazor for " "	30 41
Isaac S. Sanborn for " "	4 69
Cyrus Gilman for " "	1 46
John H. Burns for " "	1 41
Simon Clough and others for repairing school house,	35 00
James Rundlett for abatement of taxes 1850,	20 42
B. B. Lamprey for " " 1855,	5 56
J. M. Shepard for " " 1856,	35 88
J. M. Shepard for notifying jurors 1856,	8 00
Paid several school districts, 1857,	1888 35
Jonathan P. Hill and others for services locating school house,	5 00
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	\$4,486 05

PAID TOWN OFFICERS.

E. T. Gilman for constable fees, 1857,	2 00
Joseph Avery " "	2 00
J. C. Bean " "	2 00
Amos Copp " "	2 00
A. C. Lougee " "	2 00
J. W. Page	2 00
J. M. Smith for services as superintending school com.,	38 00
E. A. Rowe " " "	37 00
S. A. Arnold " " "	37 00
Enoch Brown and others for auditors services,	6 00
A. Foss for collecting tax 1856,	21 00
B. B. Lamprey for services out of town as selectmen,	33 38
Zaccheus Peaslee " " "	37 00
Alvah Foss " " "	30 38
Edmund Keazor for constable fees,	3 00
Alfred Prescott for services as treasurer,	50 00
Alfred Prescott for services as town clerk,	43 26
Nicholas D. Garman for services as collector,	21 42
Isaac S. Sanborn for " "	20 38
Joseph M. Shephard for " " 1856	18 89
Joseph M. Shepard for constable fees "	2 00
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	\$410 71

Alfred Prescott, Town Treasurer, in account with the town of Gilmanton.

Dr.

To balance on settlement, Feb. 28, 1857,	\$2,594 68
“ cash hired of H. W. Peaslee,	400 00
“ “ Sameul Hadley,	200 00
“ “ Benjamin B. Lamprey,	100 00
“ “ A. S. Tilton,	200 00
“ “ A. S. Tilton,	150 00
“ cash of the County of Belknap for paupers,	142 62
“ “ of N. D. Garman for liquor sold,	32 73
“ tax assessed in school district No. 3,	36 70
“ tax assessed “ “ No. 24,	272 27
“ tax assessed “ “ No. 25,	26 24
“ amount of tax assessed in 1858,	5974 16
“ cash of State for literary money,	*285 00
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	\$10,414 40

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By paid for outstanding orders,	\$2007 83
“ old roads and bridges,	237 01
“ new roads,	90 31
“ poor in town chargeable to other towns,	109 85
“ poor chargeable to the county,	125 49
“ poor off town farm,	132 08
“ poor in other towns chargeable to this,	168 93
“ poor on town farm,	194 25
“ Physicians' bills,	556 71
“ current expenses,	4486 05
“ town officers,	410 71
Balance of collector's notes and back taxes not collected and cash,	1895 18
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	\$10,414 40

ALFRED PRESCOTT, *Treasurer.*

BENJ. B. LAMPREY,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
ZACCHEUS PEASLEE,	
ALVAH FOSS,	

} *of*
} *Gilmanton.*

* This sum of \$285 00 was sent to this town as literary money by the State Treasurer, in June last, but sometime afterwards, the State Treasurer wrote that he had sent \$30 00 too much, and wished the town to refund that amount, which the town will probably do when they receive the railroad tax due said town for the year 1857.

Feb. 27, 1858. The undersigned have carefully examined the foregoing accounts and find them correctly cast and properly vouched, and a balance due the town of the sum of eighteen hundred and ninety-five dollars and eighteen cents.

ENOCH BROWN, }
JOHN MAXFIELD, } *Auditors.*
J. M. GILMAN, }

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWN, FEB. 27, 1858.

We find the town indebted for outstanding orders as follows, viz :

Morrill Shepard for building road,	55 88
Sally B. Plumer for land for road,	295 00
Zaccheus Peaslee for services as selectman, 1856,	68 00
Alfred Prescott for board of selectmen,	63 61
Adino Page,	750 13
Henry W. Peaslee for money hired,	400 00
Stephen Shannon for services on town farm, balance,	100 00
Otis French for medical aid,	100 00
Samuel Hadley for money hired,	200 00
A. S. Tilton " "	200 00
B. B. Lamprey " "	100 00
L. G. Lougee " "	212 00
Titus S. Dudley " "	411 91
A. S. Tilton " "	150 00
Asa T. Edgerly for guide post,	42
Luther Page for bridge plank,	6 00
Simon Clough for repairing highway,	4 82
H. Sibley for Dorcas A. Paul,	80 00
Nancy Norris for money hired,	62 92
Ira Shannon for " "	993 95
John Kimball for bridge plank,	8 31
Alfred Prescott for services as treasurer,	50 00
Thomas Durrell for building road, balance,	77 36
R. Hall for land for road,	43 00
Isaac B. Sanborn for land for road, balance,	200 00
J. B. Durrell for land for road,	75 00
J. P. Hill for money hired,	400 00
Stephen Hadley " "	221 13
Isaac B. Sanborn for land for road,	50 00

E. S. Gilman for services on town farm,	130 00
D. W. Weeks for his expenses,	15 53
Cyrus Gilman for selectmen board, 1855,	88 55
David W. Weeks for money for D. Paul,	13 00
“ “ “ A. E. Edgerly,	36 77
“ “ “ J. H. Smith,	148 59
John K. Woodman for money hired,	15 35
“ “ “ “	313 00
David W. Weeks for Mrs. Kenniston,	10 00
Francis Ayers for money hired,	110 03
Gilmanton Academy for money hired,	100 00
B. B. Lamprey for services as selectman, 1856,	88 00
Money due school district for schooling,	43 89
Alvah Foss for services as selectman, 1857,	83 89
Zaccheus Peaslee “ “ “	78 00
B. B. Lamprey, “ “ “	84 75

\$6,739 79

After deducting balance in the treasury, \$1,895 18

Amount in hands of agents for sale of
liquor, 133 60

Amount due from State for R. R. tax, 89 83

2,118 61

Leaving the town indebted over means, Feb. 27, '58, \$4,621 18

FUNDS OF THE TOWN.

Literary fund,	\$255 00
Parsonage fund,	1,807 25

We find the town indebted to the funds as follows:

Literary fund,	\$225 00
Parsonage fund,	1,164 46

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ENOCH BROWN,
JOHN MAXFIELD, } *Auditors.*
J. M. GILMAN,

Gilmanton, Feb. 27, 1858.

REPORT ON TOWN FARM.

The undersigned, Selectmen of Gilmanton, report that the town has paid out of the treasury for the use of the town farm during the year commencing March 1st, 1857, the following sums, viz :

For Stove,	\$18 00
For hired labor,	20 00
For pasturing sheep,	9 75
For difference for horse,	20 00
For coffin,	3 50
For interest on cost of farm,	180 00
For services of overseers,	233 00
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Making the whole paid out,	\$484 25
The average number supported on farm,	20

Schedule of property on town farm as appraised by the Selectmen, February 23, 1858.

10 tons English hay,	\$120 00
12 tons low ground hay,	96 00
1 horse,	90 00
4 oxen,	270 00
5 cows,	150 00
2 two years old steers,	50 00
3 one year old steers,	40 00
13 sheep,	42 00
3 shoats,	54 00
50 bushels corn,	50 00
11 " wheat,	22 00
3 " barley,	3 00
3 " peas,	3 00
5 1-2 " beans,	10 00
125 " potatoes,	50 00
10 " carrots,	3 00
1 1-2 " beets,	50
3 " oats,	1 50
5 " turnips,	1 25
60 lbs. butter,	7 50
50 lbs. lard,	12 00
70 lbs. tallow,	8 75
17 lbs. candles,	2 50

75 lbs. dried apples,	6 00
3 barrels pork,	75 00
3 1-2 barrels beef,	56 00
1 barrel soap,	3 00
3 1-2 barrels vinegar,	14 00
4 barrels cider,	12 00
3 gallons boiled cider,	1 50

Whole amounting to \$1254 50

All of which is respectfully submitted.

BENJ. B. LAMPREY,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
ZACCHEUS PEASLEE,	
ALVAH FOSS,	

of
Gilmanton.

LIST OF NAMES AND AGES OF PAUPERS ON FARM, FEBRUARY 23, 1858.

Dudley Weeks,	aged	70	Mahala Moulton,	aged	44
Thomas Elkins,	"	72	Mercy Elkins,	"	45
Charles Bean,	"	63	Mary A. Moulton,	"	24
Louis Thompson,	"	78	Cyntha B. Pulsifer,	"	2
Eliza Thompson,	"	48	Hannah Jones,	"	23
Mehitable Elkins,	"	67	John C. Fremont,	"	1
Sally Pervier,	"	58	Alvah F. Willey,	"	8
Polly Morrill,	"	65	No. of deaths the past year,		1

SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

LOWER COLLECTION DISTRICT.

DISTRICT No. 1.

First Term, 9 weeks, taught by Miss Annie R. Pendergast. Whole number of scholars, 33. Average attendance, 23. This district has an excellent school-house. Not a scratch or cut was noticed to mar its beauty. The general appearance of the school was good, with a fair improvement. The duties of the teacher were performed in a prompt and energetic manner. Order good.

Second Term, 8 weeks, taught by Mr. Arthur C. Newell. Whole number of scholars 32; average attendance 26. At the first visit the school appeared bad—there was whispering. It is proper to say of Mr. Newell that his manner of teaching was very good, with the exception of order. He will see where he has failed and do better in future. He kept six weeks, Mr. Franklin French two weeks. The school is somewhat bad and they would do well to get an old teacher in future. There are some bad scholars in the district.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

First Term, 7 weeks, taught by Miss Emily M. Parsons. Whole number of scholars, 25; average attendance, 23. Order good. The kindest of feelings seemed to exist between teacher and scholars. The scholars were well interested. The house not so good as desirable.

Second Term, 6 $\frac{2}{3}$ weeks, taught by Mr. George W. Parsons. Whole number of scholars, 34; average attendance, 31. In every branch pursued excellent improvement was made. The teacher ranks among the best in town. Thoroughness, promptness, and order, were prominent characteristics of the school.

DISTRICT No. 27.

First Term, 8 weeks, taught by Miss Laura J. Lougee. Whole number of scholars, 19; average attendance, 18. Scholars prompt and energetic, duly encouraged and assisted by the teacher. School highly commendable for its moral deportment. Order good. The teacher discharged her duty with energy and promptness.

Second Term, 7 weeks, taught by Miss Emily M. Parsons. Whole number of scholars, 20; average attendance, 17. At the commencement of the school it appeared well, but owing to sickness and death in school, the money was not all expended. I did not visit it at the close.

DISTRICT No. 3.

First Term, 10 weeks, taught by Miss Harriet S. Gilman. Whole number of scholars, 21; average attendance, 16. This district has an excellent school-house with convenient out-buildings. There are some very good scholars here who take a deep interest in trying to improve. Others need the encouragement of the parents to second the efforts of the teacher. The teacher spared no pains in communicating thorough practical instruction. Promptness and good order were prominent characteristics of the school.

Second Term, 8 weeks, taught by Mr. George W. Adams. Whole number of scholars, 34; average attendance, 26. This term commenced with good interest by the scholars and teacher, by which we may judge the progress good. Being called away to visit another school that had trouble in it the day that it closed, did not visit it but once.

DISTRICT No. 7.

One Term, 8 weeks, taught by Mr. Arthur S. Sawyer. Whole number of

scholars, 10 ; average attendance, 7. This school is in a very backward state. They have but little money in the district. They gave the board to lengthen the school. The teacher seemed to labor hard for the improvement of the school.

DISTRICT No. 6.

First Term, 8 weeks, taught by Miss Nellie M. Leighton. Whole number of scholars, 14 ; average attendance, 12. This school commenced with fair prospects of success, and some of the scholars made fair improvement. The teacher was young, and probably did the best she could, but a little more interest in the district would have increased the interest in school. The house is very bad. It seems strange that the enterprising farmers in this district should consent to have their children confined in such a gloomy, uncomfortable place day after day, without making an effort to build a new house. Our farmers are making their barns more comfortable for their stock, and why not see that their children have a good school-house.

Second Term, $7\frac{2}{3}$ weeks, taught by Henry W. Dudley. Whole number of scholars, 25 ; average attendance, 20. In every branch pursued excellent improvement was made. The teacher ranks among the best in town. Thoroughness, promptness, and order, were prominent characteristics of the school. Mr. Dudley belongs to the first class of teachers, and deserves the confidence and patronage of all who feel an interest in the cause of education.

DISTRICT No. 5.

First Term, 8 weeks, taught by Miss Hannah A. Gilman. Whole number of scholars, 27 ; average attendance, 20. The scholars appeared pretty well disposed with a few exceptions. The teacher labored hard. There were some favored scholars in school, who attended regularly and made good improvement, but many of them were very irregular in attendance, and made but little progress.

Second Term, 10 weeks, taught by Mr. James P. Gilman. Whole number of scholars, 32 ; average attendance, 27. This term commenced with good interest by the scholars and teacher, by which we may judge the progress commendable. Owing to a misunderstanding of the time of its close, not visited but once.

DISTRICT No. 28.

First Term, 13 weeks, taught by Miss Amy L. Edgerly. Whole number of scholars, 42 ; average attendance, 34. The arrangement of the school considering the number of pupils, was proper without exception. The teacher performed her duty with faithfulness, manifesting a deep and ardent desire for the welfare of her pupils, and, had she received the co-operation of the parents, greater success might have been attained. Miss Edgerly belongs to the first class of teachers, and deserves the confidence and patronage of all.

DISTRICT No. 28. (Reported by S. A. Arnold.)

Second Term, 12 weeks, Mr. John P. Clough, teacher. Whole number of scholars, 57 ; average attendance, 40. This school was visited once near the commencement by Mr. Rowe, and once at the close by myself. By comparing the report of the first visit with that of the second, and by ascertaining the actual state of the school at its close by a whole day's examination, we are able to report with a good degree of exactness its progress and present condition. In reading, the 4th and 5th Reader classes were unusually good, readers, paying particular attention to the pauses and inflections, and articulating their words in a very careful, distinct manner. The class in Tower's Elements passed the best examination I ever heard in that study. The first class in Grammar and Parsing acquitted themselves well ; five or six of this class have a better knowledge of this study than most of our teachers. The classes in Arithmetic, all appeared to understand every principle gone over, but the class in Greenleaf's went before any class I have yet seen in town. The most difficult examples in any part of the book were thoroughly understood, and readily explained. The appearance of the school indicated effort and efficiency on the part of the teacher, and good order and excellent progress on the part of the scholars.

MIDDLE COLLECTION DISTRICT.

DISTRICT No. 4.

First Term, 5 weeks, Miss Mary A. Hill, teacher. Whole number of scholars 13; average attendance 11. Seldom do we find a school of so short duration, where the scholars have made so good improvement. No doubt the progress of the school would have been twice as great with three weeks' more schooling. A portion of the time at the commencement of each term is necessarily taken up in training the mind to habits of study. Order unexceptionable. Six scholars did not whisper during the whole term. Miss Hill is an excellent manager and an apt teacher; enjoying to the fullest extent the confidence and affection of her pupils.

Second Term, 10 weeks, Mr. Elbridge G. York, teacher. Whole number of scholars 17; average attendance 12. There was a great want of punctuality and regularity in the attendance of scholars. Number of instances of tardiness 200; absences 256. This unusual waste of time and money, and "far more important waste of intellect," shows a culpable neglect on the part of parents of the best interests of their children. Parents ought to take special pains to secure the attendance of their children at school during school hours; and teachers, who are incapable of awakening an interest in the exercises of the school, ought to seek some less arduous vocation. The teacher manifested an ardent desire for the improvement of his school, and labored indefatigably for their welfare; but it must be confessed that he labored under the disadvantages of an imperfect knowledge of rudimental education. With a few exceptions, the scholars were orderly and made tolerable progress. It is very desirable that registers should be filled out in a *neat and legible* manner, and the blank pages for remarks by teachers *should all be occupied*; but care should be taken not to make *more* mistakes in spelling and in the ungrammatical use of words than there are lines on the page.

DISTRICT No. 8.

One Term, winter, 10 weeks, Mr. J. H. A. Rollins, teacher. Whole number of scholars 19; average attendance 11. A few very good scholars here, but most of them are very backward. One reason for this is the small amount of schooling in this district. Another reason is that parents feel little or no interest in the cause of common school education. Of little avail, comparatively, will be all the exertions of the faithful teacher unless sustained by a corresponding effort on the part of the parent. Let parents become interested in the school, visit it, encourage the diligent, rebuke the vicious, and teach the necessity of obedience, punctuality and regularity *at home and at school*, and depend upon it they will have less occasion to complain of the inefficiency of our common schools. One very striking evidence of a want of interest may be found in the "ill-constructed, inconvenient, uncomfortable and unpleasant school-house." The teacher, though young and inexperienced, proved himself to be a prompt, energetic and efficient instructor. Order good. Progress all that could reasonably be expected.

DISTRICT No. 9.

First Term, 10 weeks, Miss Placentia A. Pitman, teacher. (Register not received.)

Second Term, 10 weeks. Taught by the same. Any one acquainted with the past history of this school is aware that irregularity of attendance and want of punctuality have been very serious obstacles to the improvement of the school. Many seem to think that the common school is of very little consequence; for "their children will soon be old enough to attend the Academy." But we are fully of the opinion that for the purpose of *thorough rudimental* education, the common school, when under the instruction of a thoroughly qualified teacher, is second to none. The great difficulty in this as well as many other schools is, "*a want of sympathy and interest on the part of parents and the community generally.*" Some indeed manifest an interest in listening to the passionate and often false

reports of bad scholars, and also in circulating reports calculated to destroy the reputation and influence of the teacher, without making any effort to ascertain their truth. There are those, too, who are lavish in their praise of the superficial teacher who puts his pupil through the book, when he who *drills* them in the *elements*, and requires a *thorough understanding of every lesson*, is often thrown completely into the shade, and finds his reward only in the consciousness of doing right. During the twenty weeks taught by Miss Pitman, the large number of scholars and the multiplicity of classes rendered it impossible for the teacher to do justice to any of them. When visited by the Committee, the perfect regularity and order, and the interest and progress of the scholars, were alike creditable to the zeal and energy of the teacher, and the diligence of the scholars.

Third Term, 8 weeks, Stillman A. Arnold, teacher. Whole number of scholars 43; average attendance 40. It will not be expected that the Committee will speak very much in praise of the teacher when it is understood that he is under the necessity of making out his own report; but a few words in relation to the school may not be inappropriate. Most of the scholars made close application to their studies, and made excellent progress. Several classes might be mentioned who made good proficiency. The class in Colburn's Arithmetic, consisting of eleven scholars averaging only twelve years of age, went through the book in a very thorough manner. Excepting two scholars, none were tardy more than three times; twenty-one were not tardy once; thirteen were absent from two to four days; fourteen were present every day during the term. The teacher gratefully acknowledges the reception of three beautiful books presented by his scholars as a token of their affection. The fond remembrance of their kindness and affection will ever be cherished by him among the most pleasing reminiscences of the past.

DISTRICT No. 10.

First Term, 7 weeks, Miss Martha A. Rogers, teacher. Whole number of scholars 8; average attendance 6. School very small. Scholars not very far advanced, but well disposed. Miss Rogers labored hard to make up in faithfulness what she lacked in experience, and, as far as we could learn, the progress of the school was quite satisfactory to all concerned.

Second Term, 7 weeks. The first four weeks taught by the same. Whole number of scholars 8; average attendance 7. Some boys that did not attend the first term were very refractory and disobedient, which greatly retarded the improvement of the school for the first four weeks. We are aware that some teachers in small, well-disposed schools may meet with good success, when in larger or more difficult schools they may fail entirely. Many of the larger scholars in some of our winter schools are getting to be rough and unmanageable, and need a kind of discipline which but few *females* are able to administer. Miss Rogers wisely preferred to withdraw from the school rather than have any of her scholars deprived of the advantages of attending school.

The last three weeks of the term taught by Mr. Harlan W. Page. Mr. Page is a thoroughly qualified and efficient teacher. Complete harmony and good order were prominent characteristics of the school.

DISTRICT No. 11.

First Term, 8 weeks, Mrs. M. Lizzie Gale, teacher. Whole number of scholars 21; average attendance 19.

Second Term. Taught by the same. Whole number of scholars 27; average attendance 21. For a considerable time past but little interest has been manifested here by parents or scholars, and *perhaps* some *teachers* might be added to the list. This is fully demonstrated as far as parents are concerned by the miserable condition of the school-house. We are pleased to learn, however, that they begin to *see* and *feel* the *necessity* of taking hold of this business, and intend the present year to build a new house. A hint or two may not be necessary, but may have an influence in calling attention to the desirableness of having a large, convenient and well-ventilated house. "If we allow 4 cubic feet of air to each

scholar per minute, or 240 feet per hour," 30 scholars would require 7200 feet per hour. Many of the school-houses in town contain less than 3,000 cubic feet; consequently the air must be breathed over at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ times every hour, which has a most injurious effect upon the lungs and whole nervous system, producing restlessness and often insubordination in the school, besides undermining the health of the scholar.

Under the faithful and efficient instruction of Mrs. Gale, the scholars manifested a thoroughness and interest in their studies highly creditable to them. Mrs. Gale is one of the *working* kind of teachers, as the thorough discipline of the school fully proved.

DISTRICT No. 12.

First Term, 12 weeks, Miss Abbie C. Young, teacher. Whole number of scholars 20; average attendance 15. Considering the amount of money expended here for schooling, it is to be feared that there has been too great a waste of time and money. This district has usually been very fortunate in their selection of teachers, and the school has deservedly ranked among the best in town. Too much care cannot be used in the selection of teachers. Few if any could be found so inconsiderate as to entrust the care of their "stock" to an incompetent person, yet how many appear entirely indifferent in regard to the moral and intellectual qualifications of those who are entrusted with the care of the dearest earthly interests of their children.

During this term tolerable progress was made in some of the studies. The school appeared quiet and orderly. The teacher no doubt did the best she could, and we heard no dissatisfaction expressed in respect to the management of the school.

Second Term, $11\frac{1}{2}$ weeks, Mr. Rufus B. Foss, teacher. Whole number of scholars 25; average attendance 18. Visited this school the first week and found everything progressing in a satisfactory manner, but as the Committee was not notified of its close until too late to visit it we cannot report further.

DISTRICT No. 16.

First Term, 10 weeks, Miss Mary A. Page, teacher. Whole number of scholars 19; average attendance 17.

Second Term, 10 weeks. Taught by the same. Whole number of scholars 20; average attendance 15. The teacher in her report truly remarks that very little interest is manifested by parents in the welfare of the school. She says "only one parent has visited the school this term." Can it be expected that children will feel that interest which they ought when their parents and friends feel so little? Considering the *wretched* condition of the school-house, the lack of interest by parents and the want of punctuality in the scholars, the appearance of the school indicated an unusual degree of interest and effort on the part of the teacher, and improvement on the part of the scholars. There are a few scholars here who are behind none of their age at least in the Middle District. A good degree of thoroughness was manifested in all the studies pursued, but especially so in arithmetic, both mental and written. In point of order the school manifested a great change for the better since the last term, while the school was under the care of the same teacher.

DISTRICT No. 20.

First Term, 6 weeks, Miss Frances M. Heath, teacher. Whole number of scholars 12; average attendance 10. This term was very short, and consequently that progress could not be expected which might reasonably have been expected from a longer term. But notwithstanding the shortness of the term, the success which attended the devoted and faithful efforts of the teacher was alike honorable to the worth of the teacher, and creditable to the diligence of the scholars. Good order was sustained throughout the term.

Second Term, 9 weeks, Miss Rose G. Pitman, teacher. Whole number of

scholars 13; average attendance 11. Two terms in a year of six or eight weeks each is indeed but a beggarly pittance for such as have no opportunity of attending any other than our district schools. The larger scholars attend school only during the winter term after a vacation of more than three quarters of the year; for this reason several of the scholars here are not very far advanced. The discipline of the school was excellent. Improvement good. Miss Pitman acted upon the principle (which is the only true one) that a *little well understood is far better than a great deal imperfectly understood.*

DISTRICT No. 24.

One Term, winter, 12 weeks, Miss — French, teacher. Whole number of scholars 31; average attendance 26. All who have read the reports of this district for several years past must have noticed that they all have agreed in relation to the uninviting, ugly structure called a school-house, and also in relation to the backwardness of the scholars; the latter being in a great measure the result of the former. "No amiable virtues, no cheerful looks are congenial to such places. Literature and science flee from them as from a pestilence." The importance of having a new house was at length fully realized; and during the past year the citizens of this district have erected a very pretty, commodious house, pleasantly situated and having convenient outbuildings. It is painted inside and out, with blinds on the windows, and is withal one of the best school-houses in town. Such a marked change and improvement in the appearance of a school is seldom witnessed. Formerly no interest was manifested by parents or scholars; now parents, scholars and teacher unite their efforts for the benefit of the school.

The perfect order, thorough instruction and excellent progress of the scholars were highly creditable to the reputation of the teacher, and to the close application of the scholars.

DISTRICT No. 26.

First Term, 10 weeks, Miss Sarah B. Crockett, teacher. Whole number of scholars 30; average attendance 25. A lively interest is manifested here by parents and children. Much of this interest is no doubt attributable to the pleasant and attractive influence of a beautiful school-house. This school deservedly ranks among the best in town. Commendable progress was made by nearly all the scholars; those more advanced exhibited an unusual degree of interest and enthusiasm in reading, and in most of their recitations. Had *whispering* been *entirely* banished from the school-room, the order of the school would have been *perfect*. Some of our best teachers seem to think it unnecessary to stop this habit entirely, but experience proves that where it is allowed at all it soon becomes a very serious obstacle to the progress of the school. "It diverts the attention of scholars from their books, and leads to disorder and confusion." Miss Crockett sustained her former reputation as an able and efficient teacher.

Second Term, 7 weeks, Miss Martha O. Plumer, teacher. Whole number of scholars 25; average attendance 21. Miss Plumer had no experience in teaching previous to this term, but in accuracy of instruction, and in her untiring efforts to promote the welfare of the school, she is excelled by few. Her thorough and efficient manner of teaching, if combined with a correct system of discipline, would render her one of the most successful teachers in town. Some of the scholars made good progress, but a few seemed disposed to be noisy and idle. There has been some complaint on the part of teachers that such quietness and order as is desirable could not be maintained in this school without making a disturbance. But we are satisfied that a *firm, consistent and unflinching determination* on the part of the teacher to maintain *perfect order* would be sustained by nearly all the citizens of this district, and be productive of great benefit to the school.

UPPER COLLECTION DISTRICT.

DISTRICT No. 13.

First Term, 8 weeks, taught by Miss Mary J. Clay. Whole number of scholars, 24 ; average attendance, 18. This school would bear a good comparison. Scholars well interested and industrious, nearly every one wide awake to his duty. As far as we are able to judge, the desire of the teacher was thoroughness in all her instructions, and having the all important faculty to impart such in a systematic manner, we have sufficient reasons for saying that the district had a good teacher, and a good school.

Second Term, 6 weeks, taught by Mr. Cyrus Richardson, Dracut, Mass. Whole number of scholars, 26 ; average attendance, 23. We should be pleased to speak at length, concerning this term, as we feel assured that only a few exceed it in the character of its improvement. In so short a term as six weeks it would seem impossible for any teacher to accomplish as much as in 10 or 12 weeks, yet this school ranks well with those which are favored with the longest terms. If all teachers would make such a direct application of all rules as they are learned as was made by this teacher there would be fewer superficial scholars and more sound and practical knowledge. We could designate no branch in which there was not a thorough and rapid improvement. This was Mr. R's first term and as such we are favorably impressed by the apt and systematic manner in which he imparted his instructions. He remarks as follows in his report : " While some of the parents made now and then a visit to the school and manifested a good interest for its welfare, others seemed to hold the school-room as a place to be frequented only by scholars and teacher. Never can I expect to find scholars that shall treat me with more respect." We congratulate the district in being so fortunate in procuring teachers the past year.

DISTRICT No. 14.

First Term, 6 weeks, taught by Miss Mary D. Leighton. Whole number of scholars, 5 ; average attendance, 4. This school is so small in number that there can be nothing to impede a rapid and thorough improvement. We believe that such was the result of Miss Leighton's instructions, yet it would seem there could not be so much to interest a teacher as in a larger school, but if we did not find the "buzz and din" of a large school we found a genuine interest on the part of the scholars and teacher untiring in her fidelity.

Second Term, 14 weeks taught by Mr. Geo. H. Hackett. Whole number of scholars, 2 ; average attendance, 2. This school commenced favorably, though small. Quite a system evinced by the teacher. Progress good and satisfactory to all concerned.

DISTRICT No. 15.

First Term, 8 weeks, taught by Miss Hannah M. Moody. Whole number of scholars, 26 ; average attendance, 25. The industry of both teacher and scholars was of a good order, and the improvement we should judge, was commendable. Undoubtedly a general satisfaction was given.

Second Term, 8 weeks, taught by the same teacher. Whole number of scholars, 43 ; average attendance, 42. In many particulars this term was not so prosperous as the former. Improvement more limited, and order, we are inclined to think, should have been firmer. There were 261 instances of tardiness, and 350 of dismissal.

DISTRICT No. 17.

First Term, 13½ weeks, taught by Miss Zephyrine A. Elkins, Sanbornton. Whole number of scholars, 25 ; average attendance, 21. Teacher faithful and efficient. Nearly every scholar here possesses a mind of quick and ready comprehension and all that is needed to raise this school to a high standard is a close

and persevering application, which Miss Elkins labored faithfully to obtain. Classes in mental Arithmetic evinced a thoroughness in the rudiments highly pleasing; even in every branch of study we could witness the same fact. Every scholar knew what he had learned and how far he had advanced, consequently we found the improvement of a high order. Although the term was long yet the lively interest with which it commenced continued unabated to the close, and this fact alone would corroborate the opinion that the district had a commendable school in every respect. When a district has in its employ a worthy teacher, parents should always lend their undivided co-operation and not stand ready to dictate that of which they have no adequate idea.

Second Term, 8 weeks, taught by Mr. Calvin W. Shepherd. Whole number of scholars, 22; average attendance, 20. Upon our second visit to this school we regretted to find appearances of a deficiency. But little thoroughness was evinced, but little interest manifested, yet a *great progress*. We are confident that this deficiency might arise from the want of a proper system and from inaccuracy of instruction. Every teacher should dwell pointedly upon one fact or principle at a time until it is perfectly understood, or else a confusion will arise in the mind of the pupil, and all the efforts of the teacher will be unavailing. Teachers too should make teaching an interesting study and fit themselves for their duties. If they cannot afford this outlay of mental expense the avocation should be renounced and some other employment sought where their merits can be better appreciated.

DISTRICT No. 18.

First Term, 9 weeks, taught by Miss Mary F. Sheperd. Whole number of scholars, 11; average attendance, 9. The instructions given in this school were medium in thoroughness, but energy to give a life-like appearance to the exercises was needed. Order and discipline might have been much better. Had the teacher been more energetic in imparting instructions and in conducting the exercises the school would have appeared more vigorous. This drowsy routine produces in the mind of the pupil an irksome and task-like relish for study, the result of which is unprofitable.

Second Term, 14 weeks, taught by Miss Flora E. Forrest. Whole number of scholars, 13; average attendance, 11. Many indications of a good school were observed. The animation with which she managed every branch of the school, and the clear and systematic manner in which she imparted her instructions produced satisfactory results. The progress all we could expect. Order pleasing. The school-room, if such it might be called, is not worthy of its object. Children confined in it during the inclement seasons of the year must have their health fearfully exposed. By the teacher's report the building was erected upwards of sixty years ago, during which time it has made several migrations without repairs. On our last visit to the school we found the teacher and scholars shivering with the cold before what might be termed an apology for a fireplace, and we confess that before we left, the appearance of the inmates became sympathetic with your committee. Will not the parents of this district strive to erect a comfortable building worthy of its object, and in some degree decrease their admiration for antiquity?

DISTRICT No. 19.

First Term, 8 weeks, taught by Miss Matilda L. Parshly, Laconia. Whole number of scholars, 17; average attendance, 15. Instructions medium in thoroughness. Progress commendable, and we hope, highly satisfactorily to the district. Order and elementary principles should have received more attention.

Second Term, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks, taught by Miss Eliza F. Tibbetts, Barnstead. Whole number of scholars, 19; average attendance, 16. We noticed good attention by most of the scholars, and an ardent desire on the part of the teacher to leave nothing undone that might in any way benefit her school. With such a teacher we anticipated happy results and were not disappointed. A good attention given

to rudiments which caused the examination to be pleasing, although illness of the teacher and a portion of the scholars rendered the school less agreeable, consequently not so extended an examination could be witnessed.

DISTRICT NO. 21.

Two Terms, 7 and 9 weeks, taught by Miss Narcessa S. Kimball. Whole number of scholars, 14; average attendance, 11. This school ranks well with our best. This district has pursued a justifiable course, by employing one teacher for a number of terms in succession. A steady and thorough progress has been the result. It appears to be the endeavor of the teacher to present every subject in an interesting manner, and from obscure and difficult subjects draw comparisons, to excite the curiosity and admiration of the pupil, which, while it created a love for study, left an indelible impression. Class in Algebra produced a favorable impression, as did all other classes connected with the school. Good teacher, good scholars, and a good school.

DISTRICT NO. 22.

First Term, 9 weeks, taught by Miss Mary E. Smith, Sanbornton. Whole number of scholars, 14; average attendance, 13. Teacher, though young and inexperienced, met with favorable success. Progress fair, with a medium amount of thoroughness. There was a faithfulness manifested by the teacher in the discharge of her duties that speaks well for her as a desirable teacher in the future. Order might have been more prominent.

Second Term, 10 weeks, taught by Mr. Joseph Plumer. Whole number of scholars, 23; average attendance, 20. An interested, faithful and efficient teacher. Those scholars that had a worthy object in view, made all the improvement that could be reasonably expected. As a whole, the school evinced a commendable industry in every exercise of the examination. Good attention given to elementary principles, with a good degree of thoroughness. The interest and animation of the several classes seemed to increase toward the close. In conclusion, we feel justified in saying that Mr. Plumer, with his experience, gave general satisfaction. Several of the parents were present at the close, which we hope will be continued. One hundred and forty-four instances of tardiness during the term.

DISTRICT NO. 23.

One Term, commencing Oct. 5, ending Jan. 14, taught by Miss Frances E. Chase. Whole number of scholars, 15; average, 13. This school appeared pleasant and home-like. Good scholars and well interested. A good application must have been made, for the improvement was all that we anticipated. The teacher, we believe, fully realized the great importance of a thorough rudimental discipline as the essential groundwork of a sound education. The character of the improvement clearly demonstrated that her efforts to procure such were availing.

DISTRICT NO. 25.

First Term, 8 weeks, taught by Miss Lucy M. Mason, Canterbury. Whole number of scholars, 16; average attendance, 15. The progress of this school was every way praiseworthy. The teacher original and practical in all her instructions, endeavoring to convince each scholar of the importance of learning well what is learned at all. Connected with this feature of the school was an independent system of order, from which she did not deviate during the term. This brings into active operation two essential characteristics of a first class teacher—firmness and decision. If these requisites were brought to act upon the government of every school, a happier state of things would be accomplished. The instructions of such a teacher cannot be too well appreciated.

Second Term, 11 weeks, taught by Miss Louisa A. Eaton. Whole number of scholars, 22; average attendance, 16. During this term, every thing moved along in a happy, quiet and satisfactory manner. The teacher evinced a good zeal and earnestness for the welfare of her scholars. Good order was maintained

by a firm and quiet method. Progress of the school would merit the efforts of our more experienced teachers, in real thorough and practical worth, and such a progress is worth all the superficial and scum-like knowledge that could be crowded into a child's head in months.

DISTRICT NO. 29.

First Term, 8 weeks, taught by Miss Rebecca M. Jewett, Gilford. Whole number of scholars, 18; average attendance, 17. In a few particulars, this school was otherwise than commendable. Prominent in the features of a good and prosperous school, stands that of order; and when neglected, or the teacher is not adapted to secure it, we have sufficient reasons for pronouncing the school unprofitable. However, the efforts of the teacher are more unavailing, and their duties more severe, when parents entirely abandon the school-room, and cease all coöperation for the proper discipline of their children. With a proper amount of energy and resolution, the progress of the school would not have been so limited; yet what there was indicated a commendable degree of thoroughness.

Second Term, 6 weeks, taught by Miss Maria C. Pickering. Whole number of scholars, 24; average attendance, 21. We noticed an increase of interest, attention and industry from the previous term. Teacher well engaged in the discharge of duties. Progress fair. Order good. The school prolonged 4 weeks by tuition, which is not only an indication of an awakening interest among the parents, but that the efforts of the teacher are appreciated.

DISTRICT No. 30.

First Term, 10 weeks, taught by Miss Flora E. Forrest. Whole number of scholars, 46; average attendance, 40. Judging from the attention alone that was exhibited at the close, we were favorably impressed, but by hearing the various recitations we were confirmed of its correctness. The teacher's duties in such a school as this must often be severe and wearing, yet a lively, resolute tone accompanied all her instructions. The proper arrangement of the school into classes rendered the teacher's work more concentrated, and gave a fairer opportunity for each class to make good improvement. Order was all that could be reasonably expected with such ill conveniences. We believe everything connected with the school was satisfactory to the district.

Second Term, 8 weeks, taught by Mr. John W. Wells. Whole number of scholars, 57; average attendance, 51. To so large a number of scholars it is impossible for any teacher to do justice. Mr. Wells is well adapted to secure a systematic course of mental discipline, as every feature of his school indicated. To a sound and practical progress the teacher seemed to direct all his energies, and labored with an unflinching fidelity to accomplish it. We were happy to witness among the larger portion of scholars a gentlemanly and lady like appearance, giving a praise-worthy attention to their duties, while there might be a few exceptions of idle, ill-mannered and mischievous dispositions which undoubtedly made the duties of the teacher unpleasant. We should prefer that their names might come before the town, but propriety necessarily forbids the exposure.

We have endeavored, in the foregoing report, to give such information concerning each school as space would allow, yet we are confident that justice cannot be given our best teachers in so few words; yet for those who have failed and fallen far short of our anticipations, the space is even more than we could desire.—We have made numerous suggestions in the report of the several districts, deeming it preferable, as the application would be more direct, consequently but few closing remarks will be necessary. We may have spoken plainly in some instances, yet when vital interests are concerned, we should not always hesitate to utter truths, although many times unpalatable.

To parents we would say, visit your schools often; co-operate with the teacher in securing and maintaining a proper discipline; above all do not dictate the

teacher upon the management of the school before your children, but if in your opinion he has erred, seek an early interview with him, and have a fair and candid understanding concerning the matter ; if then this fails to accomplish a desirable result there are other and proper means to which you can resort. Much injustice has been done our best teachers by a passionate and selfish course.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

EDGAR A. ROWE,	} Superintending
STILLMAN A. ARNOLD,	
JOHN P. CLOUGH,	
	} School
	} Committee.





